



STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES & ENVIRONMENT  
LANSING

JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM  
GOVERNOR

REBECCA A. HUMPHRIES  
DIRECTOR

April 27, 2010

Walnutdale Farms, Incorporated  
4309 14th Street  
Wayland, Michigan 49348

Dear Sir/Madam:

SUBJECT: National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES)  
Permit No. MIG019000  
Designated Name: GP-CAFO

The Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO) General Permit was reissued on March 30, 2010, became effective April 1, 2010, and expires in five years on April 1, 2015. The permit, responsiveness summary, a comparison to the 2005 permit, and a comparison to the public-noticed version can be found at: [http://www.michigan.gov/deq/0,1607,7-135-3313\\_3682\\_3713-96774--,00.html](http://www.michigan.gov/deq/0,1607,7-135-3313_3682_3713-96774--,00.html) or

- go to <http://www.michigan.gov/dnre>, click on "Water" on the left side, on the next page
- click on "Surface Water" on the left side
- click on "NPDES Permits" on the left side
- click on "Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO)" in the center under the "Information" heading

Please carefully review both the reissued permit and the comparison to the 2005 permit to become familiar with the new changes.

### General Application Process

It is now time to submit your complete application. The application can be found at [http://www.michigan.gov/deq/0,1607,7-135-3313\\_3682\\_3713-10440--,00.html](http://www.michigan.gov/deq/0,1607,7-135-3313_3682_3713-10440--,00.html) or

- go to <http://www.michigan.gov/dnre>
- click on "Water" on the left side
- click on "Surface Water" on the left side
- click on "NPDES Permits" on the left side
- click on "How to Apply for an NPDES Permit" in the center under the "Information" heading

The application form on our Web site is available in either Word or PDF format. If you need a paper copy mailed to you, please call Ms. Susan Ashcraft at 517-241-1346.

Please complete all of Section I (Pages 1 – 5) and Section V (Page 26) of the application. Other sections do not need to be completed. Do not submit an additional fee. You paid the application fee when you previously submitted the short-form application to extend coverage under the previous permit.

In addition to submitting the information required by Sections I and V of the application, you will also need to provide a complete, up-to-date Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP). Enclosed is a checklist of the required items to be included in a CNMP. Complete and return the checklist with your application and CNMP.

### **Storage Structure Evaluations**

Your current Certificate of Coverage (COC) may have a due date for improving existing waste storage structures, if necessary, to meet Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) Practice Standard No. 313 based on an evaluation by a professional engineer. Include with your application:

1. Progress you have made toward completion of that requirement
2. A list of all structures that still need to be evaluated
3. A proposed/extended due date, if necessary, and an explanation of why additional time is necessary.

Please note that small storage structures, sometimes referred to as “temporary storage” need to be evaluated also. If you have any question as to whether a particular structure needs to be evaluated, contact your Department of Natural Resources and Environment (DNRE; formerly the Department of Environmental Quality) district staff person. Guidance for the evaluation of existing waste storage structures has been posted on the DNRE CAFO Web site since 2005; however, that guidance was replaced with new guidance, which was posted in October 2009. Note that previously-submitted information, such as the Michigan Agriculture Environmental Assurance Program “Evaluation of Existing Components” or evaluations that were not conducted following the new guidance, generally are not adequate. If you have questions concerning storage structure evaluations, please contact your district staff person.

### **Crops and Application Rates**

The reissued CAFO General Permit includes a list of crops, an application rate for each crop, and a formula for calculating the maximum amount of CAFO waste that can be land applied. If you plan to grow any crops not on the list, or plan to propose alternate land application rates or methodologies, that information must also be included in your application.

### **Anaerobic Digesters**

The reissued CAFO General Permit authorizes the use of anaerobic digester-based treatment systems (see Part I.B.10.). If you have an anaerobic digester, or plan to install an anaerobic digester-based treatment system, your application needs to include:

1. a description of the construction and operation of the digester
2. a schematic or flow diagram of the process
3. a listing of all outside materials (non-CAFO waste) to be added to the digester
4. the percentage of input to the digester comprised of outside materials
5. a contingency plan in the event of system failures, including computer malfunctions. The contingency plan shall address the actions to be taken if the digester-based treatment system must be bypassed for any reason, including handling and storage of partially-digested contents.

If you decide to add an anaerobic digester in the future, you can amend your application with the needed information at that time.

### **Land Application Sites and Public Notice**

As previously required, your application needs to include maps of all land application fields. These are likely included in your CNMP or may be a separate part of your application. Please note that fields added in the future are considered an application amendment that must now be public noticed prior to use of that field for land application of manure. They will be public noticed

by posting on our Web site for 14 days. Therefore, you should include all the fields you may possibly use with your application to avoid a delay in utilizing a field for application.

### Spreading Plan

To meet federal requirements, we need to public notice your 2010 annual report, including the 12-month spreading plan, along with your CNMP, application, and draft COC. Under the expired permit, you are required to submit a 12-month spreading plan with your annual report. That plan needs to be updated to include additional information required by the reissued permit and submitted with your application. Additional information required by the reissued permit includes: the crop that will be grown on each field and the realistic crop yield goal for that crop. If the 12-month spreading plan submitted with your 2010 annual report contains crops and yield goals, tell us that in your application, and we can use that report rather than you submitting another copy.

You are allowed, and strongly encouraged, to submit any or all of the above information in electronic format on a CD or via e-mail to me. The only item that needs to be mailed in hardcopy is the application signature page. Please do not use the mailing address in the application. Address postal mailed items as follows:

Permits Section  
Water Bureau  
DNRE  
P.O. Box 30273  
Lansing, Michigan 48909-7773

Requirements of the expired permit remain in effect for your CAFO until you are issued a new COC under the new permit.

The complete application, including an up-to-date CNMP and all of the above information as appropriate, must be submitted to us by **July 30, 2010**. If you have any questions, please contact me.

Sincerely,



Mike Bitondo  
Lakes Michigan and Superior Permits Unit  
Permits Section  
Water Bureau  
517-335-3303  
[bitondom@michigan.gov](mailto:bitondom@michigan.gov)

Enclosure

cc: Kalamazoo District Office, Water Bureau, DNRE  
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